

INF

The same distemper of the air that occasioned the plague, occasioned also the *infertility* or noxiousness of the soil, whereby the fruits of the earth became either very small, or very unwholesome.

Hale's Origin of Mankind.
To INFEST. v. a. [*infestare*, Fr. *infesta*, Latin.] To harass; to disturb; to plague.

They ceased not, in the mean while, to strengthen that part which in heart they favoured, and to *infest* by all means, under colour of other quarrels, their greatest adversaries in this cause.

Although they were a people *infested*, and mightily hated of all others, yet was there nothing of force to work the ruin of their state, till the time beforementioned was expired.

Unto my feeble breast
Come gently, but not with that mighty rage
Wherewith the martial troops thou dost *infest*,
And hearts of greatest heroes dost engage.

They were no mean, distressed, cautious persons that fled to him for refuge; but of so great quality, as it was apparent that they came not thither to protect their own fortune, but to *infest* and invade his.

These, said the genius, are envy, avarice, superstition, love, with the like cares and passions that *infest* human life.

No disease *infests* mankind more terrible in its symptoms and effects.

INFESTIVITY. n. f. [*in* and *festivity*.] Mournfulness; want of cheerfulness.

INFESTED. adj. [*in* and *festile*.] Rankling; inveterate.

This cursed creature, mindful of that old
Infestred grudge, which his mother felt,
So soon as Clarion he did behold,

His heart with vengeful malice inly swelt.

INFESTATION. n. f. [*in* and *festum*, Lat.] The act of putting one in possession of a fee or estate.

Another military provision was conventional and by tenure, upon the *infestation* of the tenant, and was usually called knight's service.

INFIDEL. n. f. [*infidelle*, Fr. *infidèle*, Latin.] An unbeliever; a miscreant; a pagan; one who rejects Christianity.

Exhorting her, if she did marry, yet not to join herself to an *infidel*, as in those times some widows christian had done, for the advancement of their estate in this world.

INFIDELITY. n. f. [*infidelitas*, French; *infidelitas*, Lat.]

1. Want of faith.

The consideration of the divine omnipotence and infinite wisdom, and our own ignorance, are great instruments of silencing the murmurs of *infidelity*.

2. Disbelief of Christianity.

One would fancy that infidels would be exempt from that single fault, which seems to grow out of the imprudent fervours of religion; but so it is, that *infidelity* is propagated with as much fierceness and contention, as if the safety of mankind depended upon it.

3. Treachery; deceit.

The *infidelities* on the one part between the two sexes, and the caprices on the other, the vanities and vexations attending even the most refined delights that make up this business of life, render it silly and uncomfortable.

INFINITE. adj. [*infini*, French; *infinitus*, Latin.]

1. Unbounded; boundless; unlimited; immense; having no boundaries or limits to its nature.

Impossible it is, that God should withdraw his presence from any thing, because the very substance of God is *infinite*.

What's time, when on eternity we think?
A thousand ages in that sea must sink:
Time's nothing but a word; a million
Is full as far from *infinite* as one.

Thou sov'reign pow'r, whose secret will controuls
The inward bent and motion of our souls!
Why hast thou plac'd such *infinite* degrees
Between the cause and cure of my disease?

When we would think of *infinite* space or duration, we at first make some very large idea; as perhaps of millions of ages or miles, which possibly we multiply several times.

Even an angel's comprehensive thought
Cannot extend as far as thou hast wrought:
Our vast conceptions are by swelling brought,
Swallow'd and lost in *infinite*, to nought.

2. It is hyperbolically used for large; great.

INFINITELY. adv. [*from infinite*.] Without limits; without bounds; immensity.

Nothing may be *infinitely* desired, but that good which indeed is infinite.

This is Antonio,
To whom I am so *infinitely* bound.

The king law that contravert it would follow, that England, though much less in territory, yet should have *infinitely* more soldiers of their native forces than those other nations have.

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Infinitely the greater part of mankind have professed to act under a full persuasion of this great article.

INFINITENESS. n. f. [*from infinite*.] Immenity; boundlessness; infinity.

The cunning of his flattery, the readiness of his tears, the *infiniteness* of his vows, were but among the weakest threads of his net.

Let us always bear about us such impressions of reverence, and fear of God, that we may humble ourselves before his *Almightiness*, and express that infinite distance between his *Almightiness* and our weaknesses.

INFINITESIMAL. adj. [*from infinite*.] Infinitely divided.

INFINITIVE. adj. [*infinitivus*, Fr. *infinitive*, Latin.] In grammar, the *infinitive* affirms, or intimates the intention of affirming, which is one use of the indicative; but then it does not do it absolutely.

INFINITUDE. n. f. [*from infinite*.]

1. Infinity; immensity.

Confusion heard his voice, and wild uproar
Stood rud', flood vast *infinitude* confin'd.

2. Boundless number.

We see all the good sense of the age cut out, and minced into almost an *infinitude* of distinctions.

INFINITY. n. f. [*infinitus*, French; *infinitus*, Latin.]

1. Immenity; boundlessness; unlimited qualities.

There cannot be more *infinity* than one; for one of them would limit the other.

2. Endless number.

A poor, *infirm*, weak, and despond'd old man.

Thy frailty, and *infirm* sex, forgiv'n;
To me committed, and by me expos'd.

3. Weak of mind; irresolute.

I'll go no more;
I am afraid to think what I have done:
Look out again, I dare not.

4. Not stable; not solid.

He who fixes upon false principles, treads upon *infirm* ground, and so sinks; and he, who fails in his deductions from right principles, stumbles upon firm ground, and falls.

INFLAME. v. a. [*inflamere*, Fr. *inflamer*, Lat.] To weaken; to shake; to enfeeble. Not in use.

INFLAMMABLE. adj. [*from inflammare*.] Easy to be set on flame; having the quality of flaming.

INFLAMMABLENESS. n. f. [*from inflammable*.] The quality of easily catching fire.

INFLAMMATION. n. f. [*inflammatio*, Latin; *inflammation*, French.]

1. The act of setting on flame.

2. The state of being in flame.

3. The flame extendeth not beyond the inflammable effluence, but closely adheres unto the original of its *inflammation*.

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How difficult is it to preserve a great name, when he that has acquired it, is so obnoxious to such little weaknesses and *infirmities*, as are no small diminution to it, when discovered.

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4. The act of exciting fervour of mind.

Prayer kindeth our desire to behold God by speculation; and the mind, delighted with that contemplative sight of God, taketh every where new *inflammations* to pray the riches of the mysteries of heavenly wisdom, continually stirring up in us correspondent desires towards them.

INFLAMMATORY. adj. [*from inflame*.] Having the power of inflaming.

The extremity of pain often creates a coldness in the extremities: such a sensation is very consistent with an *inflammatory* distemper.

INFLATE. v. a. [*inflatus*, Latin.]

1. To swell with wind.

That the muscles are *inflated* in time of rest, appears to the very eye in the faces of children.

2. To fill with the breath.

With might and main they chas'd the murd'rous fox,
With brazen trumpets and *inflated* boxes,
To kindle Mars with military fouds,
Nor wanted horns to inspire fagacious hounds.

INFLATION. n. f. [*inflatio*, Lat. from *inflare*.] The state of being swelled with wind; flatulence.

Wind coming upwards, *inflation* and tumours of the belly are signs of a phlegmatick constitution.

INFLICT. v. a. [*inflexio*, Latin.]

1. To bend; to turn.

What makes them this one way their race direct,
While they a thousand other ways reject?

2. To change or vary.

INFLUENCE. n. f. [*influentia*, Latin.]

1. The act of bending or turning.

Neither the divine determinations, persuasions, or *influxions* of the understanding or will of rational creatures, doth deceive the understanding, pervert the will, or necessitate either to any moral evil.

2. Modulation of the voice.

His virtue, his gesture, his countenance, his zeal, the motion of his body, and the *inflexion* of his voice, who first uttereth them as his own, is that which giveth the very essence of instruments available to eternal life.

3. Variation of a noun or verb.

The same word in the original tongue, by divers *inflexions* and variations, makes divers dialects.

INFLUENT. n. f. [*influentia*, Latin.] Having the power of bending.

This *inflexive* quality of the air is a great incumbrance and confusion of astronomical observations.

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